

SWO Mascot Survey

Report to Tribal Council

7/1/2014

SWO Tribal Education Department
Dr. Sherry Johnson, Program Director
Amber Decoteau, Administrative Assistant

Table of Contents

- 1. Introduction – pg. 2**
- 2. Respondents to Mascot Survey All Age Groups – pg. 3**
- 3. Respondents to Mascot Survey Question 1 – pg. 7**
- 4. Survey Narrative Comments – pg. 18**
- 5. Copy of Survey – pg. 38**



Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate

Tribal Education Department

LAKE TRAVERSE RESERVATION

BOX 509

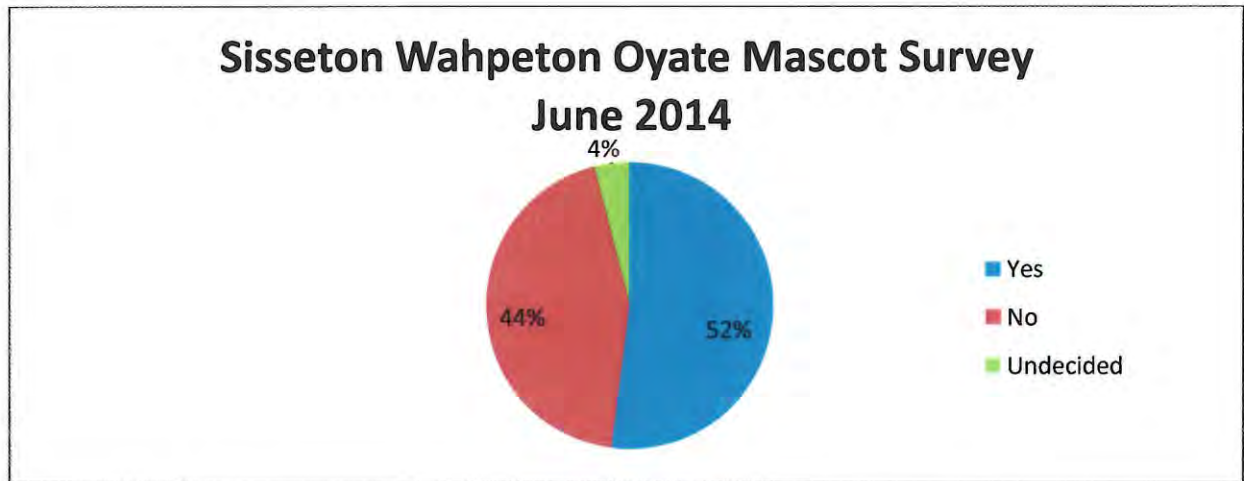
AGENCY VILLAGE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57262-0509

PHONE: (605) 698-8298/8299

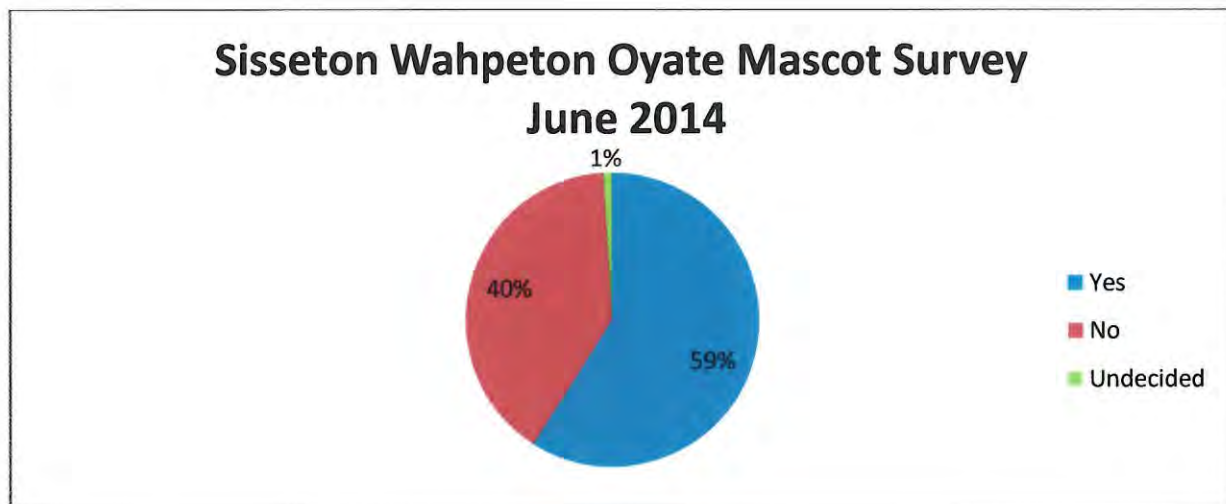
This survey report is in response to the question of “How does our Oyate feel about the Native American MASCOT issue?” This issue is being discussed by Tribal Council and Executives.

**Respondents to Mascot Survey
(all age groups)**

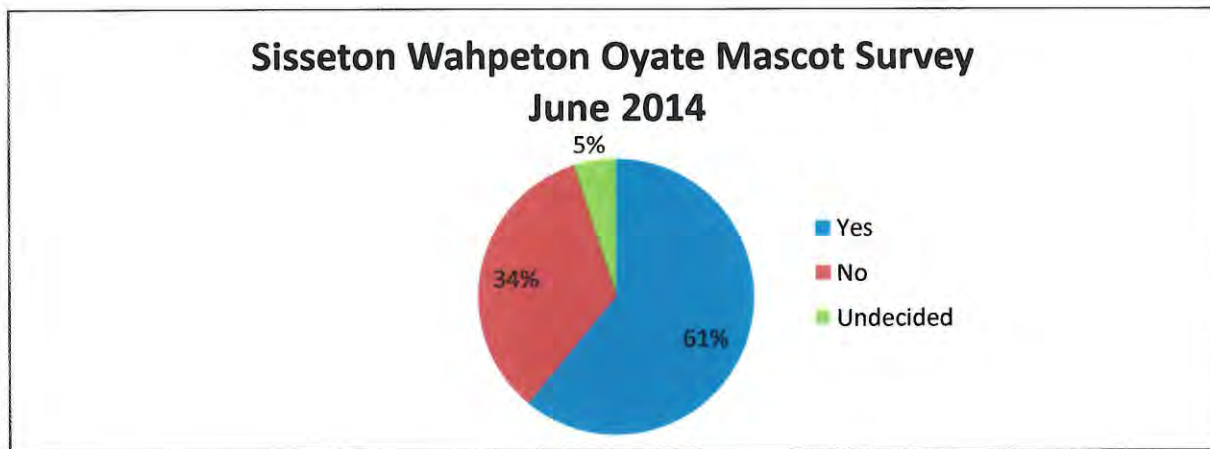
Percentage of survey respondents (all age groups) to question 1: Do you feel that the use of Native American mascots in offensive?



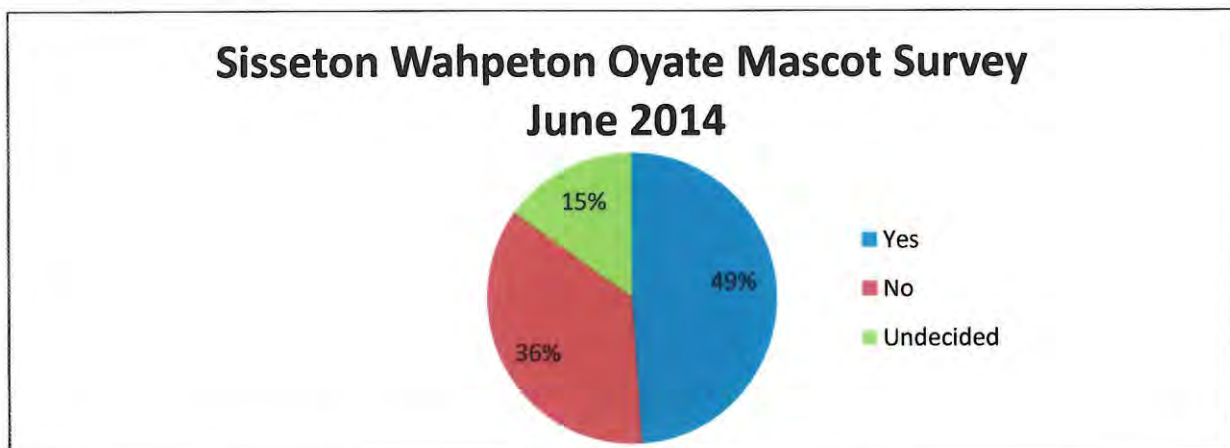
Percentage of survey respondents (all age groups) to question 2: Do you feel that the use of Native American ceremonies during school events is offensive?



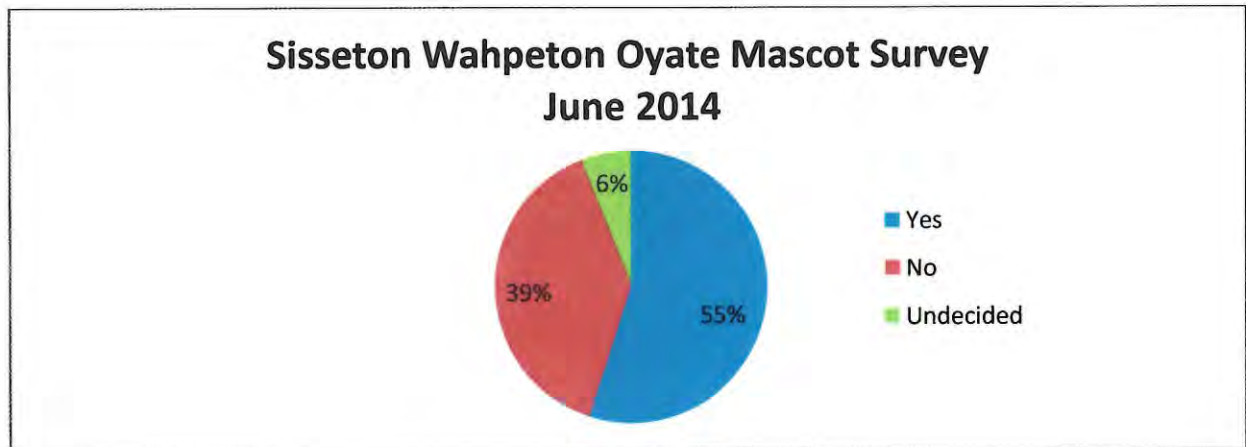
Percentage of survey respondents (all age groups) to question 3: Do you feel that the use of Native American mascots and culture in public schools creates problems for students? (Bullying, racism or embarrassment)



Percentage of survey respondents (all age groups) to question 4: Do you feel that a child attending a public school is embarrassed when Native American mascots, culture, chants or cheers are used?



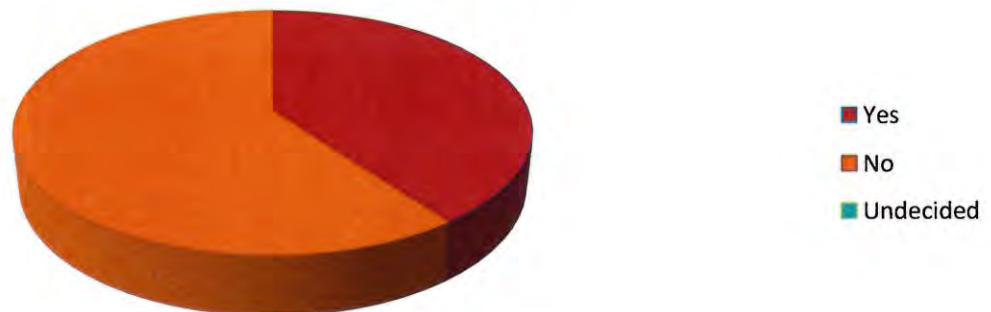
Percentage of survey respondents (all age groups) to question 5: In your opinion is the term “Redskins” for a NFL team offensive?



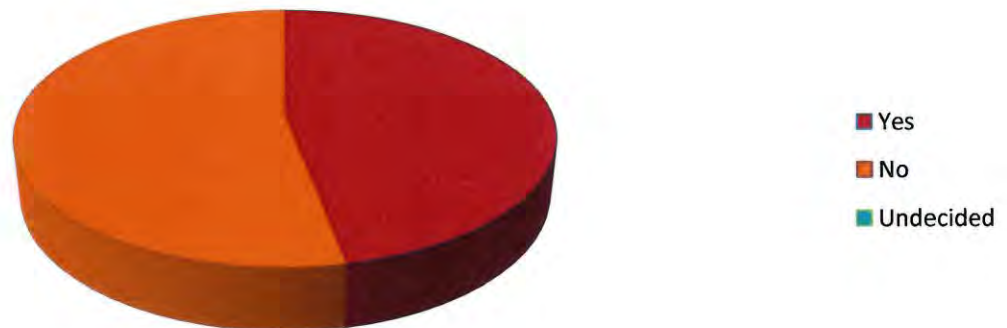
Respondents to Mascot Survey (by age group)

Percentage of survey respondents (by age group) to question 1: Do you feel that the use of Native American mascots is offensive?

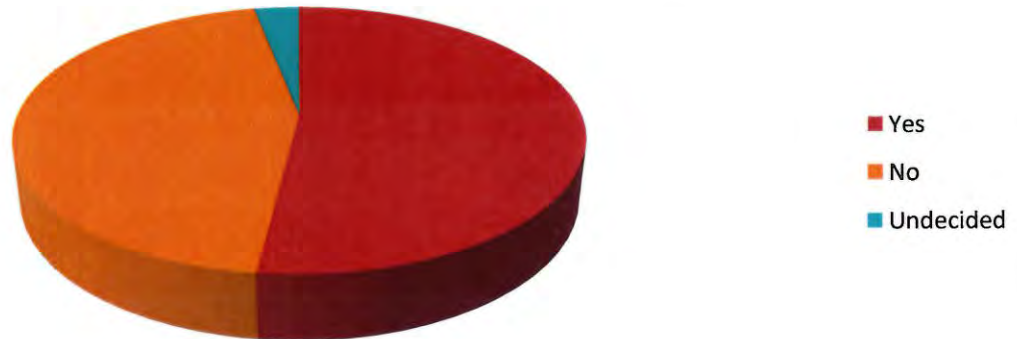
**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 0-15) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 16-30) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 31-45) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 45-60) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 61-75+) June 2014**



Percentage of survey respondents (by age group) to question 2: Do you feel that the use of Native American ceremonies during school sports events is offensive?

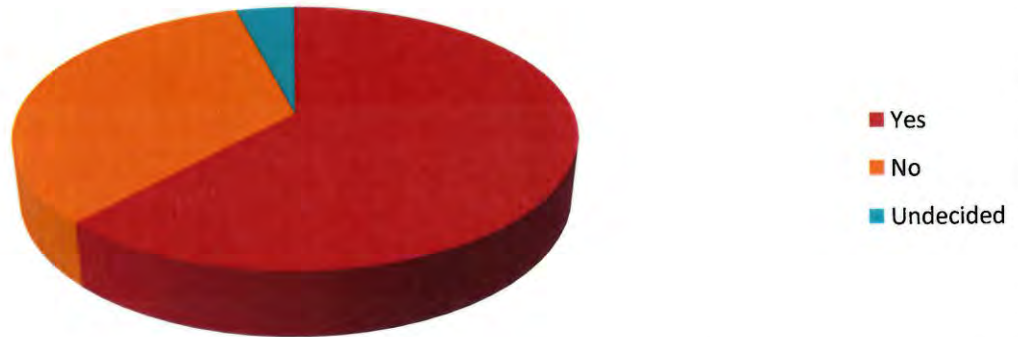
**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 0-15) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 16-30) June 2014**



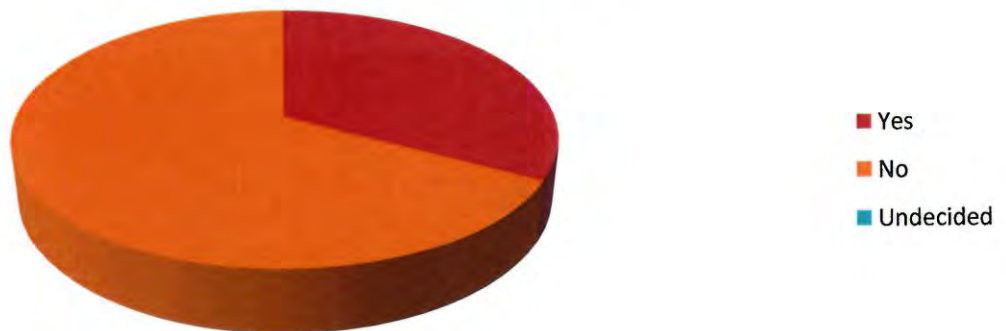
**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 31-45) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 46-60) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 61-75+) June 2014**



Percentage of respondents (by age group) to question 3: Do you feel that the use of Native American mascots & culture in public schools creates problems for students? (Bullying, racism, embarrassment, etc)

**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 0-15) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 16-30) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 31-45) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 46-60) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 61-75+) June 2014**

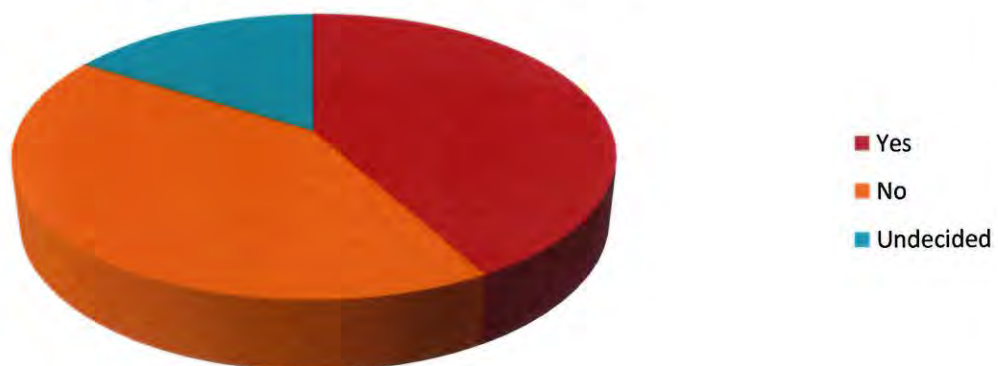


**Percentage of respondents to mascot survey
(by age group) to question 4: Do you feel that
a child attending public school is
embarrassed when Native American mascots,
culture, chants or cheers are used?**

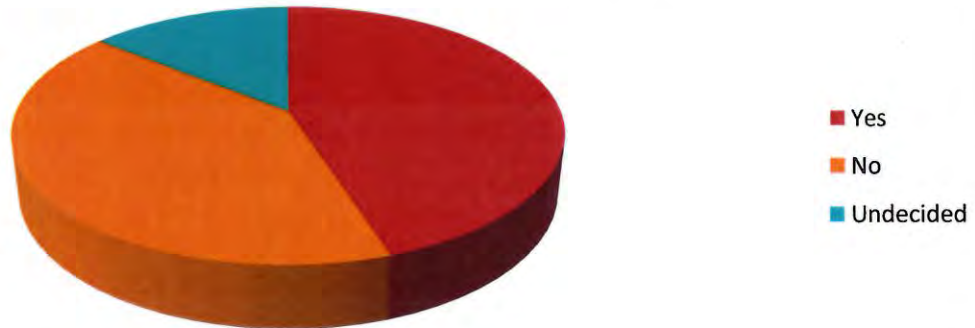
**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 0-15) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 16-30) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 31-45) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 46-60) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 61-75+) June 2014**



**Percentage of respondents to mascot survey
(by age group) to question 5: In your opinion
is the use of the term “Redskins” for a NFL
team offensive?**

**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 0-15) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 16-30) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 31-45) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 46-60) June 2014**



**Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate Mascot Survey
(ages 61-75+) June 2014**



Survey
Narrative
Comments

Mascot Survey Questions and Comments

1. Do you feel that the uses of Native American mascots are offensive?

- ◀ Yes- I believe, the use of the names is represented in the wrong way. They are not being used to show the good of the Indian people.
- ◀ Yes- I am not a mascot!
- ◀ Yes- I think so because it's used improperly, gives others the wrong impression of what our culture is about.
- ◀ No- it doesn't bother me because what other names are the schools teams going to use?
- ◀ Yes- Because those names are dumb, it would be different if they used their own cultures words.
- ◀ Yes- to an extent
- ◀ ?- Not all, but definitely some! Warriors, Braves...OK, especially by Native teams. Redmen, Redskins...No! Cartoon characters can also be very offensive... Touchy subject!!
- ◀ Yes- Because then people think of our culture as a mascot, not of a real culture.
- ◀ Yes- Because Chiefs and Warriors actually signify something very special in our culture and personally I don't think it's appropriate for everyone to use the mascots like its meaningless.
- ◀ Yes- The white man wants to be all these things but cannot. He cannot because he hates too much. So he ends up still wanting to be these things but leaves out the Indian and makes fun of him, because he himself cannot be these ways.
- ◀ Yes- Some tribal school don't use some of the mascots shown.
- ◀ They are offensive because of the oppressive history our people have endured by the European immigrants to this country. They objective a whole race of people and justify it by saying they honor us. Which if that is the case do non-Indians think we are mascots? Or that their mascots symbolize us? Which then supports what our people have been saying for the past 30 years is that we are not mascots and that by using these images to represent our people continues to reinforce the stereotyping of Indian people.
- ◀ Yes- I don't like the names being used without the knowledge of knowing how it is to be Indian.

◀No- doesn't bother me.

◀No- I haven't heard of anybody feeling offensive towards Native American mascots. I personally felt good seeing Native American things out there in the world.

◀No- I do not believe that they are offensive because they are images that portray a sense of pride.

◀No- It's a pride thing.

◀?- That's a hard question because I don't think they are unless the person themselves are racist.

◀No- Depends on how you were raised. It's just a name; I think it could be an honor in some cases, all except the Indians one.

◀?- Not for Non-Native use, keep for Native schools.

◀Yes- When they make war whoops and jump around is demeaning.

◀?- Not if it is a tribal or Native school in general but if it is being used during white schools, then a little. They don't know the culture behind it.

◀?- I think that the names have become offensive. I think that it started out okay but white people made it ugly.

◀No- I think it is okay.

◀No- If the mascot name had history or a good reason.

◀No- The definition of mascot is: an animal, person or thing, supposed to bring good luck. Your use of the word suggests something negative. Warriors, Braves, Redmen, etc.... are words/names that in themselves are not negative or bad. It is the people, mostly adults who make them offensive.

◀No- If used in a disrespectful manner, no huge noses, or character "warrior" faces.

◀No- We are, Braves, Chiefs, and Warriors.

◀No- People will realize we still exist out here. I don't think teams will pick an offensive name. People are proud of their teams. NDSU has a nice picture of a Native- they should keep it.

◀No- It is a part of sports participation, we also have Vikings.

◀No- Should realize what Native means, before carrying on.

◀Yes- Insult

◀?- Growing up I didn't, but as I get older I do. It was never used as it is now, it is like a mockery. I think growing up I accepted it and now because we have spoken up, it effects our younger generation and they despise it and take offense to it because we have come to value our heritage and want to learn our language and our ways, so speaking up is good.

◀Yes- Native American Warriors, Braves, Chiefs, so why use these names for a group of people that are not Native American.

◀Yes- People don't have a problem with Native American mascots, how would people feel if the mascot was a Blackman from the same era? A slave man for instance? Or how about a pictograph of a Jew? Or just maybe any other race?? The Clippers owner is deemed racist (and he is) for perpetrating stereotypes, it's televised on every fricking station and news blog. Yet, after decades of talking about racism in sports and stereotyping Indians, the Washington Redskins owner goes unscathed.

◀Yes- It gives rise to the opposing teams to make fun of the mascot. For example, a T-shirt at NDSU which had a picture of a bison behind a "Fighting Sioux" in a sexual way and the "F" the Sioux chant when U of M was opposing UND>

◀Yes- Disrespectful

◀No- Why would it?

◀Yes- I think the bottom line it was originally meant to be an honored thing but through time and events has become more of a racial joke/slur that is now more a symbol of complete disrespect and ignorance, humanity needs to be educated and "we" need to educate them.

◀Yes- These are statuses that are earned.

◀Yes- It devalues the ceremonial significance of an entire culture.

◀No- Taking it to heart too much we still have pride and our tradition to carry on years from now.

◀No- Most are used in honor of historical events, Steelers, 49ers or even geographic areas; Lakers= originally located in MN.

◀No- I actually think it is supportive.

◀No- Proud to be a "Sisseton Redmen". Made me who I am today, I am a high school, community college and university graduate. If I had to do it all over, I'd go to UND and become a "Fighting Sioux".

- ◀No- I don't feel its offensive using Native American mascots when I go to games, you don't see mascots out there making fun of Natives.
- ◀Yes- If there are no Native Americans on the team.
- ◀Yes- If it was to honor us by using our names and images they are doing a poor job of it.
- ◀Yes- In mainstream society we are thought of as characters and ancient history- we are neither. These views should not be propagated.
- ◀Yes- The rituals that schools do trying to imitate Native culture is very demeaning.
- ◀Yes- Self-esteem issues for future generations.
- ◀Yes- Scared I guess
- ◀Undecided- Just depends on if it's a non-Native school.
- ◀No- There are a lot of public schools that use Native mascots and that have Native students attending and participating in school functions and sports and a lot of students are pretty proud to be a part of that.
- ◀Yes- The names can be offensive and the activity can be also if it's not done properly.
- ◀No- It doesn't bother me.
- ◀No- At least we got some recognition.
- ◀No- I enjoy seeing my people getting represented.
- ◀No- Certain teams, their players and community take extreme pride in honoring that heritage. Example; Fighting Sioux
- ◀No- After having some conversations with students I have learned they don't take offense, though where I'm from there is a motion to change the "Blackhawks" mascot and I totally support it.
- ◀No- It doesn't affect me unless the fans of the mascots make rude acts with the outfits pertaining Native Americans or make racial slurs. For entertainment though it doesn't bother me.
- ◀Yes- I find it offensive when Non-Natives have a Native mascot but then again what about Native schools?
- ◀Yes- The examples above are areas of men's lives and status' earned.
- ◀Yes- these mascots make Native Americans look like a 2nd class citizen, makes it seem as if we are primitive.

- ◀Yes- if they choose to mock Native Americans
- ◀Yes- As a Native American I do not want to see myself and my ancestors plastered as a cartoon character, I feel it belittles us.
- ◀Yes- Do you see tribal schools using mascots such as a cracker or redneck? (Gook, spick, wetback, etc....?)
- ◀Yes- Because they don't know our religion or culture.
- ◀No- Because every team should have a mascot.
- ◀No- They could be for school
- ◀No- Because its just a way of showing pride or something.
- ◀Yes- I said yes because their mascots seem like they mock our culture.
- ◀Yes- Because they do stupid stuff.
- ◀Yes- Some schools make fun of our Native names.
- ◀No- I don't mind.
- ◀No- Because they're just representing their schools.
- ◀No- They are a good way of showing pride in Native Americans and showing Native American Warriors long forgotten.

2. Do you feel that the use of Native American ceremonies during events such as Homecoming and Sports Cheers/Chants is offensive?

- ◀Yes- The chants are not the way of the Indian people. They are made up, that's wrong.
- ◀Yes- It seems as if they are making fun of our ceremonies, I find the use offensive.
- ◀Yes- Other cultures would think the same, like we are being made fun of.
- ◀Yes- Places like Watertown don't know what they're doing.
- ◀Yes- because it is unnecessary and they don't do it right. Also because I feel like they're making fun of our ways.
- ◀Yes- It does not represent who we are.
- ◀Yes- Absolutely! Do not pretend to portray any part of our ceremonies-that is mockery!
- ◀Yes- Because those are sacred to our culture and shouldn't be replicated or made fun of in anyway.

- ◀Yes- If they aren't doing it respectful or even believe our culture/tradition they SHOULDN'T be allowed to make fun. We don't mock their views or beliefs.
- ◀Yes- whether they know it or not they are doing the same things the German's were doing during the days of WWII, hate be gates hate.
- ◀Yes- Because some of those ceremonies are special to Native Americans.
- ◀Yes- Our ceremonies are sacred, they take something sacred which they know nothing about and make it into something that is demeaning and disrespectful to our people.
- ◀Yes- When the cheers aren't used in the right way they shouldn't do it.
- ◀Yes- Native American ceremonies are sacred, war whooping is offensive to me.
- ◀Yes- These are sacred to Native Americans
- ◀No- It was a fun experience for myself during high school.
- ◀No- The individuals who find it offensive need to grow a backbone.
- ◀No- Not if they are doing it right and not mocking the Native Americans.
- ◀Yes- I feel in some cases their making fun of our culture.
- ◀Yes- Ceremonies should not be shared with Non-Natives, their past down, not for display.
- ◀No- Native American ceremonies should stay with us.
- ◀Undecided- I think if they use ceremonies the right way then there should be no problem but if you have no clue how they work then leave it out of school events.
- ◀Yes- Native American ceremonies are sacred to us and by chanting and cheering, war whooping is very offensive.
- ◀No- Only if it's a tribal school.
- ◀No- I am only familiar with Sisseton Redmen. Other sports cheers, etc don't affect us locally or personally. SHS Homecoming can be tweaked or changed somewhat (the headdress) Though my grandson has been part of homecoming.
- ◀No- Sometimes its sad that more Native American students choose not to participate.
- ◀No- If its done in a respectful way its ok. In the early 70's Waubays homecoming has some white boys come out with jugs acting like they were drunk Indians. Now that was offensive.

◀No- It's cultural; every person should learn something about their culture.

◀Yes- Because so many of us practice our traditional ways now. Seeing a war bonnet on a non-Native is not realistic, we do not publicize our ceremonies so why should they be allowed to reenact something sacred to us? It is sad and hurtful, again mockery.

◀Yes- Ceremonies are not to be freely abused with everyone.

◀Yes- Extremely so, while these so called "educators" insist they are "honoring" the Native students by using their culture as mascots, yet turn a blind eye to the current, historic and blatant racism in their own communities. By belittling the culture of their students, they continue to keep them down and submissive to their authority and maintain control of the natural resources on Native soil. If they truly want to honor the Native communities, they would allow full language and culture classes for the Native students, but they do not. There are Native Americans who really don't know any better, they were raised to turn a blind eye as well. To fit in with the dominate culture and to reject their culture so as not to suffer the overt racism their forefathers and mothers endured. Because of this, these Natives will side with the abusers, making it difficult to press for true change.

◀Yes- I am particularly offended by the use of a student at the Sisseton Public School elected and then dressed up as the "Medicine Man". I think that if a school were to create an effigy of the "Pope" or other Christianity figure and then include them as an "honor" in their homecoming activities, there would be mass outrage.

◀Yes- It's like they are making fun of our Native culture....mockery (disrespectful)

◀Yes- I think in "our" own events it can be a good thing, to mix spirituality in to everything we do. Because "everything" we do in our comprehension/understanding is spiritual, everything.

◀Yes- Our ceremonies are sacred.

◀Yes- Again they do so without regard for an entire culture and without permission. It's demeaning!

◀Yes- Our tradition isn't to be played with.

◀Yes- There are not events that mock baptisms and catechisms.

◀No- It can be a learning experience for Native and Non-Natives to learn a different culture.

◀No- Because homecoming is a play/skit. Its kids acting, I was elected as the Homecoming "Medicine Man" in '92 and am proud of that.

- ◀ Yes- Why would they need to have that?
- ◀ Yes- Homecoming was very hard to attend, they made you go. Always looked forward to leaving the crowning of "Indian Princess" or "Chief". Very shameful.
- ◀ These things make Native students uncomfortable and breeds misunderstandings in non-native children.
- ◀ Yes- Their mocking a heritage/way of life. For example; Sisseton's homecoming, they hardly ever select Natives as the princess or chieftain. Then they have the nerve not to play the Native kids on the basketball or football teams.
- ◀ Yes- It's so disrespectful and embarrassing.
- ◀ Yes- I feel it's a mockery of us as a people.
- ◀ No- They are just games, I guess.
- ◀ Yes- Only by the non-natives
- ◀ No- If referring to SHS Homecoming I don't feel offended in any way. There has been a lot of Native students that have participated in the event and have been selected. I feel the only people that feel offended are the ones that did not attend SHS.
- ◀ Yes- If they are not done respectfully.
- ◀ Yes- I don't like it.
- ◀ No- It doesn't bother me.
- ◀ No- This is our way of life and we should never forget that.
- ◀ No- I felt proud being in the homecoming royalty as a senior in Sisseton but do feel they need to do more to honor and teach the history or culture of the SWO.
- ◀ No- Everyone has a culture they celebrate in different ways- myself included and I support it.
- ◀ Yes- Unless it is for an All Indian school. Also if there are Native Americans in the school. I think the school should be able to do a ceremony for the Native Americans that are in a school if it is not an All Indian school.
- ◀ Ceremonies are supposed to be sacred, not for entertainment.
- ◀ Yes- Especially if not a tribal chartered school.
- ◀ Yes- These ceremonies shouldn't be mocked at school events

- ◀Yes- What's the purpose of it? We don't cheer about the white man ways.
- ◀Yes- They do not belong in a public school.
- ◀Yes- Wrongly or mocking the ceremony could hurt feelings.
- ◀Yes- They do it for play and fun.
- ◀No- Keep the culture going.
- ◀No- Because they may want it.
- ◀No- Because we want to show pride.
- ◀Yes- Because it's racist and I feel like they want to make fun of our cultures and our ceremonies.
- ◀Yes- No comment
- ◀Yes- I don't like it because they don't even know our Native ways.
- ◀No- It's not that bad
- ◀No- They are just representing their schools
- ◀No- They treat us like crap and think their more than us.
- ◀Yes- They are not all Native Americans, I'm ok with the chants at a tribal school but not off reservation schools.

3. Do you feel that the use of Native American mascots and culture in K-12 Public School systems creates problems for students? Include feelings and actions of bullying, racism, or embarrassment?

- ◀Yes- Because of the chants the other ethnics use and act them out where our kids see and have to live with the disgrace.
- ◀Yes- My children tell me every time they hear a non-native child make negative remarks about native people. My children become upset and I have to explain ignorance to them. They often ask why non-natives are that way.
- ◀Yes- From experience with my son in kinds, in Sisseton school
- ◀Yes- There is always going to be name calling aimed at our children no matter what.
- ◀Undecided- If they are teaching it properly it wouldn't be a problem
- ◀Undecided- I don't know

◀Yes- When Native culture or groups are presented as a “mascot” for non-native schools; it sets that population up for mal-treatment!! UND, classic case and point!!

◀Yes- I believe its racism and embarrassment because not everyone views it as respectful and they do chants wrong and often feels like they are making fun of our tradition.

◀Yes- It brings out all the hate of the white, and also envy.

◀Yes- Most public schools don't have Native American students, some are offensive.

◀Yes- I believe it sends a message to our children that we are not human but are objects. Children do not have the maturity to express or even identify the feeling they have about these things so they internalize a negative image of themselves.

◀Yes- Our kids have a hard time already, we don't have to add more.

◀No- Kids don't understand until around high school then at that age you learned to speak up.

◀No- Natives know how to stand up for themselves.

◀No- I find it sad that this is an issue. Doesn't our tribe have other issues to discuss?

◀No- In school I get along with both cultures, friends with both and at the time there was not really bullying.

◀Undecided- In some cases, but not all the time, it depends on how the children take it. I would never be embarrassed to be a Native American. I think they would be more bullied and embarrassed by their parents or family with drinking or life at home.

◀Undecided- Natives in public schools should have the option to learn their culture, mascots is a problem. Don't know the history or the culture, why would you want that mascot?

◀Yes- It creates a bad environment.

◀Yes- I can't say all the time, but it may or could be used against other people as racism.

◀Yes- It creates a bad environment.

◀No- I think those actions are created by how people were raised.

◀No- We should all be open minded and willing to learn about any and all cultures. Changing a name will not take away or stop racism. Kids can be embarrassed for many things; having no friends, being fat or skinny, failing a class, not having nice clothes, making a mistake, etc. Can you fix everything? Rather parents/grandparents should

build up kids self-esteem, be good role models, support all kids in any school. It takes a community to raise good kids. All kids belong to all of us.

◀No- Feeling different is difficult but this gives greater character to Native Americans. Bullying, racism and embarrassment come from the family and how they perceive others, making life difficult for themselves later on.

◀Yes- If the kids in school have racist parents they would use it to bully, but most teachers and parents know who the racists are. Plus we need to teach our children and grandchildren to be proud of who they are, stand up for that.

◀Yes- Children will bully, adults need to teach them.

◀Yes and No- native students need and should have their culture available to them, to have their classmates learn about who they are in all forms, terms such as "sitting indian style" and "I" is for igloo and such should not be used in the schools, but they are and they are just as humiliating as the logos and team names.

◀Yes- Very much

◀Yes- The honor of receiving a feather in our culture is minimalized by seeing students wearing feathers and then acting inappropriately.

◀Yes- A child will see adults doing these disrespectful things and think its ok.

◀Yes- That's life, it's the way they were taught.

◀Yes- Definitely in public school settings.....absolutely.

◀ Yes- it is subtle.

◀Yes- Parents instill this in their kids, it will never end.

◀No- If learning about other cultures is not a problem, why should ours be.

◀No- I attended public school system at 2 different schools that used Sisseton Redmen and Watertown Arrows. Never once have I encountered any issues in addition my children attend Sisseton public schools and they haven't had any issues.

◀No- Native mascots are a honor, parents create the racism and bullying your group of light skinned complainers are winning over.

◀No- That's the problem they should have Native Americans classes to teach both Natives and non-Natives the history and culture they could use it for a foreign class like they offer Spanish.

◀Yes- There isn't a "whitey" team or "Germans" or "Norwegians"

- ◀ Yes- I agree, we get into a negative way of feeling bad about ourselves as Natives.
- ◀ Yes- This perpetuates misinformation and disrespect for Natives.
- ◀ Yes- It makes kids feel like their culture or way of life is nothing to the white culture, Only something to be played with, lowers self-esteem.
- ◀ Yes- I feel if a wasicu don't like who we are they would use their mascot to make fun of our youth in school.
- ◀ No- I really don't think anyone pays attention to that!
- ◀ No- I feel it is more of educating the non-Natives and if it was to be explained to the students by then there shouldn't be a problem.
- ◀ Yes- Bully isn't a joke. I don't know how that ties with the racism.
- ◀ No- There's so many problems that are blamed on everything except for one key item, PARENTING! Strong parents create a strong self-esteem for children.
- ◀ Yes- People are afraid of what they don't understand, not me!
- ◀ No- It could cause bullying, racism or embarrassment our people should honor it anyway. The other people should show respect for our religion in public school, just like we had to show respect for the "pledge of allegiance".
- ◀ Yes- It must be hard for young people who are Native to be at a school with a mascot that's supposed to be funny.
- ◀ Yes- I feel that it can create a sense of racism especially between rival schools.
- ◀ Yes- It's embarrassing and might make you feel bad about who you are.
- ◀ Yes- As an alumini of Sisseton Public schools I myself have been bullied because of the REDMEN logo.
- ◀ Yes- They could think at an early age that racist chants and mockery of ceremonies are perfectly fine and don't hurt feelings.
- ◀ No- It explains our culture more to the white people, maybe they won't be bullies or racists.
- ◀ No- They shouldn't bully.
- ◀ Yes- They don't know Native ceremonies.
- ◀ Yes- People don't like to be bullies or made fun of.

◀ Yes- They make fun of them.

◀ No- Not that hurtful.

◀ No- Its part of our culture

◀ Yes- I was told that I was dark and that I was brown.

◀ Yes- I've been to a school where such things happen and I feel embarrassed because im the only Native in the class.

4. Do you feel that a child attending a K-12 public school is embarrassed when Native American mascot, culture, chants or cheers are used?

◀ Yes- It's against their values.

◀ Yes- Often times there are negative comments made by non-natives or some type of mockery that takes place. That child feels bad because they have to listen to it or they cannot do anything about it. They may feel obligated to say something but scared to do so.

◀ Undecided- Some for the ones that really know about our culture and if they are being made fun of.

◀ No- I think just the parents are just because we hear what the parents like that they don't know what they are doing.

◀ Yes- To me they are mocking us as Dakota people.

◀ Yes- I would think so, a made up chant that means nothing.

◀ Yes- When done by a non-native school, it is mockery. When a tribal group is asked to come and sing for grad. For example.

◀ Yes- It probably makes them feel really mad and doesn't take as much pride in his/her culture as they should.

◀ Yes- Mocking the way we do things almost makes it meaningless or not want to believe tradition ways anymore.

◀ Yes- The hate and envy, we are made fun of causing embarrassment and hard feelings.

◀ Yes- Some are because they aren't raised in a traditional home like that.

◀ Yes- They might not be able to express feelings of embarrassment but as an adult I feel embarrassment when I see non-natives dressed up to look like a Native.

◀ Yes- They don't feel right when it happens incorrectly.

- ◀No- For me I get goose bumps filled with joy! Listen to the war chants that the seniors have endorsed, does that sound like shame? Does our culture not FIGHT on? Are we not warriors?
- ◀No- It isn't meant for them to be. If it was taught to them that way then yes they will be but it's how they take it.
- ◀Yes- I know I was, because non-natives don't need to be using chants and mascots. They are not native and know nothing about what they are saying or displaying and it is offensive.
- ◀Undecided- Depends on the person, if they are native or non-native, I cant speak on others.
- ◀Undecided- Depending on chants or the words used in the cheers.
- ◀No- We have been attending all sports events at SHS for several years. Have never heard any chanting, cheers that could be offensive to Natives.
- ◀Yes- they are taught to find foolishness in others, this should change.
- ◀Undecided- Perhaps angry if negative attitude is displayed by majority.
- ◀Yes- Maybe not all of them, they need to be taught a more positive outlook. Someone will always be embarrassed or offended.
- ◀Undecided- Not embarrassed, but more hurt because a lot more of our children are exposed to our traditional ways. To see them trying to intimidate something we hold close to our hearts is hurtful.
- ◀Yes- I grew up with fellow students that would tease and mock.
- ◀Yes- That the sports fans of a college opposing a team with a Native American mascot can chant words "small pox blankets" and feel this is ok is ridiculous and would never happen if Native American mascots were no longer allowed.
- ◀Undecided- Reasons why is some kids have grown up thinking its ok when its not and those that do know it's wrong will be embarrassed.
- ◀No- They should be taught to be proud.
- ◀No- They are the ones looking like fools....chanting.
- ◀Yes- If used in an offensive way then yes, otherwise if no harm intended, then no.
- ◀Yes- Depending on how they are portrayed.

◀No- My children are not affected by it, I asked them how it made them feel and they said "it feels good that they could take time to embarrass themselves to try and imitate us, it make me laugh that they think it looks cool.

◀No- I honestly don't think a child really understands as for the older ones I think embarrassed is never really a worry.

◀No- I went to Sisseton K-12 and graduated toward top of class I was freshman and sophomore class President, and a member of many clubs.

◀No- Being a Native American going to public school we were honored during homecoming, kids didn't make fun of it or disrespect Natives. Nor do you hear offensive chants or cheers at sporting events.

◀Yes- It sounds stupid

◀Yes- I believe that they get shamed into believing we do things like that.

◀Yes- Propagates misunderstandings of Natives many native children don't have understanding of themselves as Natives and these things do not help. Non-natives become desensitized to derogatory Native portrayals.

◀Yes- A child is impressionable. If a native student who has never been around natives or raised as one, they'll think that what they see at school is how it really is. They will grow up thinking this is acceptable.

◀Yes- I cried, my kids say the same.

◀No- Not really

◀Undecided- My children know; my children don't get embarrassed by it, because they are proud of whom they are. There are times that Native students are doing the chants also.

◀Undecided- Depends on it they are done inappropriately.

◀No- Not from what I have seen.

◀No- Depends on the child and the strength of their beliefs.

◀Undecided- It never bothered me, schools should be able to prevent things of offense.

◀Yes- Who wouldn't feel a little embarrassed.

◀Yes- Depends on the way they are used.

◀Yes- I think it creates problems when others use the mascot against the students.

- ◀ Yes- If the child is culturally aware of his/her background then the child may find it offensive.
- ◀ Yes- It makes them feel uncomfortable.
- ◀ Yes- Again as a student I was embarrassed to see what I practiced every weekend be made into a joke.
- ◀ Undecided- If the nature of the chant is used out of ceremony, yes I feel the child would feel conflicted
- ◀ Undecided- Sometimes depending on if they are Native American or Non-native.
- ◀ No- I don't think the children pay too much attention.
- ◀ No- It's their school mascot.
- ◀ Yes- They don't know Natives and have no right.
- ◀ Yes- They wouldn't want to do something they shouldn't do.
- ◀ Yes- It's like saying we're stupid.
- ◀ Yes- It is embarrassing.
- ◀ No- I'm not the type to get offended.
- ◀ No- Because their resenting their culture.
- ◀ Yes- I felt the same way.
- ◀ Yes- Sometimes the chants can be totally off in culture and it can also be used in a racist mockery.

5. In your opinion, is the use of the term "Redskins" for a National Football League offensive?

- ◀ It leads to the racist chants NFL is not forcing these actions but they also aren't prohibiting them.
- ◀ Yes- The team "Redskins" comes from when the white settlers scalped on Indian for money and the scalp would be so bloody, they would just call it "Redskin". Tell my why that wouldn't be offensive?
- ◀ Yes- You don't see whiteskins, yellowskins or purple skins.
- ◀ Yes- Its offensive if it is Redskins just as it would be if it was blackman, brownskins or whiteman.
- ◀ Yes- We are not redskinned.

- ◀Yes- You got to consider the name doesn't have anything to do with the team.
- ◀No- It isn't offensive to me because isn't that what we used to call ourselves that in the day? If not, it still doesn't bother me, I call white people-white and black people- black. Although I am brown, it doesn't bother me that they call the "Redskins" after our people. Yet, I don't want people walking around calling me red.
- ◀No- I've spoken with students who do not take offense to it, I support them too.
- ◀No- I've been a "Redskin" fan since I was 3 years old. Well aware of term Redskin being derogatory BUT the organization is very respectful of owner Daniel Snyder started off a charity in 2001, not just recently, to help tribes.
- ◀No- It is tradition; it makes us glad we have something that has our name on it.
- ◀Yes- I do feel that it is in the sense that the fans are mimicking Natives in a demeaning way.
- ◀Yes- Just the fact that it sounds racist.
- ◀Yes- They probably wouldn't like it if we used white skins, meaning that we used their scalps or something.
- ◀Yes- No need for explanation
- ◀Yes- Very Offensive, all of it, change the name.
- ◀Yes- I can't believe in 2014 these names are still allowed
- ◀Yes- Many Natives are Redskins fans but I do not feel it is a positive representation of Native people.
- ◀Yes- What other nationality or better "indigenous people" are portrayed as this "Redskin".
- ◀Yes- Why can't they be yellow, black, purple, etc.??
- ◀No- Reading articles about the Washington Redskins it was supported by other tribes also the logo was designed by other Native Americans.
- ◀No- I am an Indianapolis Colts fan.
- ◀No- It's just a team.
- ◀No- We call black people "black" don't we??
- ◀Undecided- If they did something to make fun of our culture then it would be.

◀Yes- We're brown not red, I see that term as one of those racial joke/slurs I mentioned earlier.

◀Yes- If there all white & black.

◀Yes- Its derogatory and disrespectful

◀Yes- I never think of myself as "red" but when I think about the word "redskin" it always brings to mind the phrase "better dead than red"

◀Yes- Don't like it when the name "Redskins" is used for teasing or embarrassment.

◀No- How do the Washington people feel? Its their team.

◀Yes- We are not red!

◀No- My uncle said "Finally the white guys know whose best"

◀No- Doesn't affect us locally, Vikings also is not offensive.

◀Undecided- In some ways because during the game they will show white men with painted faces holding a beer.

◀Undecided- Depends on the actual people, if they take apart in racism or if they understand the culture itself.

◀No- I don't think it was originally meant to be offensive.

◀No- When I hear redskin I think white men with a sunburn, not a Native American.

◀No- Only if you let it bother you. It's only a mascot name. We have to be bigger than that as Native Americans.

◀No- Look at the studies!!

◀No- I've grown up knowing the team and felt no offense to it.

◀Yes- We are not redskins.

◀Yes- Considering how it originated, yes it's very offensive.

◀Yes- They don't know the meaning behind the name.

◀Yes- Us getting called "Redskins" is like the same thing as us calling black people "ni**s" or Mexicans "beaners", its inappropriate and unnecessary.

◀Yes- its just another form of people not taking our heritage seriously.

◀Yes- Bad history to the name, puts Native people back to a time when our scalps were bought and sold like animal parts.

◀Yes- Isn't it a term used for a scalp of a Native?

◀Yes- The definition itself explains why it's offensive.

◀Yes- They should be called the pigskins because that is how they dress themselves up as.

◀Yes- If everyone knew what the term "Redskin" really meant.

◀Yes- What is horrible is that the non-Natives are fighting to keep the name, I would like to see the day where Native Americans are not mascots for any team.

◀Yes- We are not "Redskins" this term is a racist term.

◀Yes- As a Native American we don't use things degrading to whites for a mascot.

◀Yes- Not one football player is Native.

◀Yes- Its inappropriate

◀Yes- They aren't Native.

◀No- It's been here for awhile.

◀No- They are a term of abuse.

◀No- Symbolizes the pride of Native Americans.

◀

Mascots

What age range are you? (Please circle your age range)

0-15

16-30

31-45

46-60

61-75

Gender: Male Female

Do you feel that the uses of Native American mascots are offensive? (Example: Warriors, Braves, Redmen, Indians, Chiefs, etc...) Yes or No

Explain:

Do you feel that the use of Native American ceremonies during events such as Homecoming and Sports Cheers/Chants is offensive? Yes or No

Explain:

Do you feel that the use of Native American mascots and culture in K-12 Public School systems creates problems for students to include feelings and actions of bullying, racism, or embarrassment? Yes or No

Explain:

Do you feel that a child attending a K-12 public school is embarrassed when Native American mascots, culture, chants or cheers are used? Yes or
No

Explain:

In your opinion, is the use of the term "Redskins" for a National Football League offensive? Yes or No

Explain:

Additional Comments:
